

On May 6, 1947, °the first day of the regular session of the Alabama legislature, °George C. Wallace, a first-term representative from Barbour County, introduced a bill (H.2) calling for the establishment, maintenance, and operation@ of a system of Aregional trade schools.@[1] A few months earlier, when Wallace said that such schools were needed to address labor problems from Athe gradual mechanization of our farms.@ As Wallace explained, Awe are going to have to give our rural boys training in some other type of work to prevent a labor surplus, and this is about as good a method as I know.@[2] Stephen Leshner, a Wallace biographer whose work is based on extensive interviews with Wallace himself, has argued that the young legislator was motivated to introduce the trade school legislation from a keen sense of North-South economic rivalry.[3] <#_edn3> Certainly, the preamble to the bill reflects this conflict. AThe South has not kept pace with other sections of the Nation in industrial development@ because Atraining youth in handicrafts, industrial arts, and trades has been long neglected A[4] The Acraftsmen, artisans, and skilled mechanics essential to the promotion of an industrial economy cannot be supplied unless conveniently located training centers are provided.@[5]

The bill=s preamble also justified the trade schools as a part of Athe promises to veterans for vocational and rehabilitation training under the AG.I. Bill of Rights.@ In Alabama, such promises A[had] not been fulfilled due to the lack of adequate and properly located facilities.@[6]

Wallace=s notion of a system of publically support trade schools may have been, as Leshner has argued, Aboth novel for the time . . . and relatively costly,@[7] but with the support of key legislators, the state superintendent of education, Austin Meadows, and the Alabama Education Association, as well as the private backing of the Governor Folsom, the bill Aeasily won legislative approval.@[8]

According to one version of events, pivotal support for the bill was provided by Rankin Fite, a strong supporter of Governor Jim Folsom, the state senator from Hamilton and a member of the Alabama State Board of Education. °Fite Aadvised Wallace@ to call for a sales tax on liquor to pay for the new trade schools. It would be hard for legislators to vote against expanded education for veterans and equally difficult to vote against a Asin

tax@ to pay for it.[9] <#_edn9> And, indeed, the trade school bill which passed the House of Representatives authorized a Atwo per cent tax on sales of spirituous or vinous liquors@ to finance the undertaking.[10] <#_edn10>

The liquor tax did not make it through the Alabama Senate, however. °°According to Leshner, it was never intended to survive. °°Wallace and Fite knew that the powerful liquor interests would see a tax on their products as **Aunacceptable.@ The tax could be avoided and a vote for veterans and industrial development preserved, though, if the trade schools were funded from the surplus in the Special Education Trust Fund. According to Leshner, the Aploy proved brilliant.@**[11] The Senate version of the trade school bill removed the liquor tax and provided, instead, that the trade schools would be funded by an appropriation from of Alabama Special Education Trust Fund Surplus Account of \$750,000.00 for each of the next four fiscal years.[12] <#_edn12>

During the 1947 legislative session, Fuller Kimbrell from Fayette was a Folsom leader in the Alabama Senate. °Kimbrell was a member of the Senate Education Committee, the group to which the Wallace trade school bill was assigned. °°Kimbrell was asked by Wallace to handle the trade school bill when it got to the Education Committee and if it made it onto the floor of the Senate. °°In an interview with Kimbrell, he did not confirm the specific version of events that Leshner describes. Kimbrell did, however, **Aremember a little discussion@ about the liquor tax, i.e. that the Atax for whiskey was going for too many things already and that to start putting it for special projects like education when they had their designated fund already it just was not going to pass out of the committee with that on it.@ Fuller recalled one specific member of the Education Committee asserting that Awe= re just getting too many taxes on whiskey and alcohol already so I=m not going to vote for it as long as that=s on it, . . . that tax is on there.@ And so, Kimbrell said, Ait was taken off.@**[13]

According to Kimbrell, the key to the passage of the bill in the Senate was in another amendment. °°The trade school bill was **Agetting stalled pretty bad@ in the Education Committee until Dave Patton, Senator from Limestone and Lauderdale counties, said AI=ll go along@ with the trade school bill Aproviding you=ll take the trade school that=s in Limestone County.@ According to Kimbrell, Patton was Aone of the fellows that stayed with the opposition [to Governor Folsom] all the way through . . .@ And, Kimbrell said, AI don=t believe we=d have ever got it [the trade school bill] out of the committee had [Patton=s request] not been agreed to.@**[14]

The Senate, then, amended the House version of the bill to include **Athe Trade School now located in Limestone County.@ When that school stopped being funded by the Federal Government and was turned over to the state of Alabama by the Decatur Board of Education, it would be Aconsidered an additional or fifth Trade School@ under the operation of the act and receive the same appropriation for operations and maintenance as the other four.**[15] <#_edn15>

Kimbrell said that he did not recall **Aany opposition to it [the amended trade school bill] once it got to the floor@ of the Senate, where Rankin Fite Amade a little talk for it.**[16] Wallace quickly agreed to the Senate version of the bill which was passed, without a dissenting vote, on the final day of the 1947 legislative session.[17] <#_edn17>

The Regional Vocational and Trade Schools provided for the construction of four trade schools, one each year starting in 1947-48. °°The schools had to be located so that each was **Ain a different section of the State.@ Further, the schools should be Asituated@ so that Aevery part of the State is within a close a radius as is reasonably possible to one of the schools or [to] the Alabama School of Trades in Gadsden.@ No congressional district could contain more than one of the trade schools.**[18] <#_edn18>

Even before the trade school bill received final approval by the legislature, Tuscaloosa began preparation to make its bid to be the home of one of the new institutions. The effort was led by the Chamber of Commerce. °In August, 1947, a Trade School Committee was appointed by the Chamber. °°°This committee was chaired by Aubrey Dominick.[19] <#_edn19> °°°°The Chamber Committee prepared a **Adetailed brochure on the advantages offered by this community@and invited the State Department of Education officials to visit Tuscaloosa.**[20] <#_edn20>

The Alabama State Board of Education would determine the location of each of the trade schools. °°The Board, however, had to act on the recommendation of the State Superintendent of Education, Austin Meadows. °°To help him make this important decision, °Meadows appointed a**Ahighly trained and experienced@ committee to gather information and survey potential sites and locations.**[21] <#_edn21> J.F. Ingram, State Supervisor of Trade and Industrial Education, was chairman of the group (hereafter called the Site Selection Committee).

In conducting its survey of potential locations for the four regional trade schools, the Site Selection Committee visited eighteen Alabama towns and cities.[22] <#_edn22> Tuscaloosa was among those localities. In response to the Chamber of Commerce invitation, the Site Selection Committee came to Tuscaloosa on March 18, 1948.[23] <#_edn23> For three days, the visit of the Site Selection Committee and the effort of the Chamber of Commerce to get a trade school in Tuscaloosa was front page news, including a picture of the Site Selection Committee centered above the fold on March 19th.

When the Site Selection Committee was in town, Aubrey Dominick, Chester Walker (Probate Judge and president of the Chamber of Commerce), Dr. J. H. Hadley (city school superintendent), Professor Kermit A. Johnson (county superintendent), and Paul Damond (Chamber of Commerce Secretary-Manager) took them on an **Ainspection tour@ of places that were available and suitable for the trade school. The Aofficial presentation of Tuscaloosa=s case@ concluded with a luncheon at the Tuscaloosa Country Club. Probate Judge Walker presided at the luncheon where an impressive array of Tuscaloosa business leaders and educators, Aextolled the advantages of Tuscaloosa.@**

Among those present were Paul Singleton of Central Foundry at Holt, Herbert D. Warner of Gulf States Paper, Phil Zuiderhoer of the B.F. Goodrich tire plant, Tom Carpenter of the DeBardeleben Corporation, and Joe Cruse and B.Z. Hendricks of the Alabama Power Company

According the *News* report of the gathering, these business and industrial leaders stressed the **Ashortage of skilled labor@ in the Tuscaloosa area.**

Others who **Aspoke briefly@ at the luncheon** included Gordon D. Palmer of the First National Bank, Owen Meredith, Jr. of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, and Albert Maxwell representing Northport. Beverly Holstun, the county agricultural agent, pointed to the need to train farm workers who were being displaced by mechanization. The University of Alabama added its support to the Tuscaloosa case. Dean John McLure of the College of Education at the University declared that the University was Avery much interested@ and Ain a position to cooperate extensively@ with a new trade school. McLure pointed out that the University was Aresponsible for the training@ of teachers for vocational education Abut is without proper facilities for such training.@ [24] <#_edn24>

Apparently, the Tuscaloosa case was not persuasive. The State Board of Education met on Friday, May 18, 1948, to establish the location of the first of the trade schools called for by the Wallace legislation. At that meeting, Superintendent Meadows recommended only two schools. He recommended that the first trade school be a school **Afor white pupils@ and that it be located at Napier Field in the Dothan area. Meadows recommended the second trade school Ato serve Negro pupils@ and that it be located in the Powderly-Wenonah community in Jefferson County. Then, Meadows recommended that the Alocation of other . . . schools be held in abeyance until . . . a more complete study might be made of trade education needs in the state.@[25]**

The State Board approved the Dothan trade school by unanimous vote. When the motion was made to establish the school at Powderly-Wenonah, however, Rankin Fite offered a substitute motion to delay the location of a trade school for African-American students because such an institution was **Anot as urgent as another trade school for whites.@ Fite=s substitute motion was defeated on a 5-2 vote. Only Fite and Roy L. Nolen, Jr., who had seconded the Fite motion, voted in favor of delay. Governor Folsom, who was present at the meeting, voted with the majority and against the Fite motion. The vote on the original motion to establish the trade school at Powderly-Wenonah, then was passed by State Board by the same 5-2 margin.[26] <#_edn26>**

Tuscaloosa did not give up at its apparent defeat. There were still two trades school to go. *The Tuscaloosa News* later praised the **Aall-out cooperation on the civic front . . . in pressing the bid for Tuscaloosa.@ The News pointed to the effort by the Chamber of Commerce and to the contribution of the University of Alabama, President John M. Gallalee, having Aoffered use@of its Northington campus, where the University had classrooms and laboratories. In particular, though, Athe Tuscaloosa County legislative delegation put its shoulders to the wheel, collectively and individually.@ According to the *News*, state Senator H.H. Mize and Representatives A.K. ATemo@ Callahan and J.P. Shelton Awere 100 per cent on the job.@[27]**

The **Ajob@ for Callahan and Shelton was to persuade the members of the State Board of Education to put a trade school at Tuscaloosa. Governor Folsom was president of the State Board and regularly attended its meetings. Rankin Fite, a key Folsom supporter, also was a member and perhaps the strongest figure on the Board. Callahan and Shelton had reason to think that they could be successful because, as Fuller Kimbrell recalled, both ATemo@ and AOld**

Brother@ Shelton Ahad went along real good with the Folsom administration in the House.@[28] Kimbrell and Rankin Fite Awere very close friends.@ AUp until his death,@ Kimbrell recalled, Awe talked every morning, before we got out of bed most of the time.@ Kimbrell and Fite, who were both from northeast Alabama also Arode together most of the time during the first [Folsom] administration.@ Kimbrell believes the support which Callahan and Shelton gave the Folsom administration to be the reason that Fite came to support the Tuscaloosa bid for a trade school. Kimbrell recalls, that Rankin Fite told him that he Ahad to go to bat for the Tuscaloosa boys.@[29]

And Ago to bat@ for Tuscaloosa, he did. The State Board did not meet again on the matter of new trade schools for over eighteen months, on Tuesday, January 10, 1950. At that meeting, Superintendent Meadows presented his recommendation for the third and fourth state trade schools. Meadows recommended that the third regional trade school be located in Montgomery and that the final regional trade school be located in Mobile. The Board, however, refused to act on the recommendations of Superintendent Meadows. Instead, acting on a motion by Rankin Fite, by a 5-2 vote, the Board asked the Governor to appoint subcommittee made up of its members Ato make a study@ of where the trade schools Amight best serve the state.@[30]

When the Board met again to consider the matter, some eight months later, on Friday, September 29, 1950, a delegation from Tuscaloosa, headed by Representative J.P. Shelton was in attendance at the meeting. °ATemo@ Callahan, Aubrey Dominick, and Circuit Judge Reuben Wright also were in the Tuscaloosa contingent. When it was time for the Board subcommittee appointed in January to make its report, Rankin Fite said that the chairman of the committee had authorized him to make an Aoral report@ and that Afour out of the five@ members of the subcommittee wanted to reject the recommendations which Superintendent Meadows had made in January. The Subcommittee, then, Arequested@ that Superintendent Meadows Aooffer an alternate recommendation.@ The motion to reject the January 10th recommendations passed by a 6-4 vote, Governor Folsom voting with the majority. Folsom asked Meadows Ato make another recommendation . . . an alternate recommendation.@ Meadows did not give way easily. Before he gave the Governor what he wanted, Meadows pointed out that after Amonths of study, visits to twenty different towns and cities . . . and a complete state-wide survey of trade training needs in Alabama,@ he and the survey staff had Aunanimously agreed that Montgomery . . . and . . . Mobile@ were the Amost desirable locations.@ Since the Board Ahad rejected his recommendations,@ however, he Awould offer a recommendation for a State trade school at Tuscaloosa, Alabama, as being the next most acceptable trade center, according to his joint findings with the Survey staff.@ Rankin Fite moved that the alternate recommendation be accepted, and by a vote of 7-3 Tuscaloosa was chosen as the site for the third state regional trade school.@[31] ATemo@ Callahan immediately telephoned word of the victory to *The Tuscaloosa News*. [32] <#_edn32>

Once the decision in favor of Tuscaloosa had been made, the State Department of Education lost little time beginning the work of making the school a reality. °°°The idea of using facilities at Northington on a permanent basis was rejected. °In late October, 1950, at a meeting of the Tuscaloosa Lions Club, J. F. Ingram, State Supervisor of Trade and Industrial Education, pointed out that the buildings at Northington General Hospital were Anot suitable for trade school purposes@ and would be too costly too maintain. The Aideal situation@ would be to Aobtain about a 60-acre site and build new buildings designed specifically for the trade school,@ that is, A>to build an institution of which we can all be proud.=@[33] In November, 1950, Austin Meadows, and a committee of seven other officials from the State Department of Education, came to Tuscaloosa to select a site for the location of the new trade school. Aubrey Dominick again chaired a Chamber of Commerce committee, which included the members of the Tuscaloosa county legislative delegation, to work with the Department of Education officials in the search for a suitable location. Twenty-two sites, ranging from 40 acres to 1,120 acres were proposed. P.B. Raiford, executive secretary of the Chamber of Commerce reported that after inspecting all these places , Anone . . . were definitely excluded from consideration,@ . . . but priority was given@ to four locations.[34] <#_edn34>

The State Department of Education also put the architect, Wilmot C. Douglas of Birmingham to work designing the institution. The architect=s initial plans called for an brick facade administrative building to face Fifteenth Street and two block shop buildings behind it.[35] <#_edn35> Architectural plans also called for the construction of a home for the Director and his family on the school property. Bids were accepted for this dwelling in March 1952. The cost of the home for the Director would be \$32,900.00. State Superintendent Terry explained to the Board that Awhile the price may seem high . . . when the area of the house is taken into

consideration, it was thought to all concerned to be reasonable.@[36]

The State Board began the process of finding a director for its newest trade school Superintendent of Education Meadows announced to the Board of Education in November 1950 that he was **Aprepared to submit his nomination.**@ Once again, however, Rankin Fite intervened.

Upon his motion, the Board appointed an **Aadvisory committee**@ to assist Superintendent Meadows **Ain considering applicants.**@[37] Subsequently, ten applicants were interviewed for the position by the State Board

subcommittee. Among the applicants for the position were five individuals from Tuscaloosa. J. L.Couch, a mathematics instructor at the University of Alabama; G.P. Helms, Veterans Administration employee; M.C. Hulsey, State Education Department employee; Henry Lyds, business assistant in the Tuscaloosa city school system; and M. H. Sherer, coordinator of trade and industrial education at Tuscaloosa High School.[38] <#_edn38>

It took a few months for all this activity to bear fruit. °It was not until May 1951 that the new Superintendent of Education W. J. Terry announced his appointment of Harold I. (Jimmy) James as **Ainterim director**@ of the Tuscaloosa Trade School. James had been among the ten applicants who had applied for the position in late 1950. He had attended the Simpson School in Birmingham and graduated from Birmingham-Southern College. After graduation from college, James was a teacher and coach for several years. During the Depression, he spent some time as an employee of the Frisco Railroad. He began his career in vocational education as a **Diversified Occupations/Diversified Education** instructor at Union Springs.

In 1941, James went to Gadsden as coordinator of trades and industrial education in the vocational departments of Gadsden and Emma Sampson High Schools. Later, he was supervisor of the war production training program in the Gadsden schools. In 1947, he became assistant school superintendent Gadsden. At the time of his appointment as Director of the Tuscaloosa trade school, James was completing work on his master=s degree in education at Auburn.[39] <#_edn39> At it meeting in July 1951, the Alabama State Board of Education, by a unanimous vote, approved the appointment of Mr. James, effective June 1,1951, and set his annual salary at \$5,400.00.[40] <#_edn40>

At that same meeting, the State Board of Education completed purchase of a portion of the property on which the Tuscaloosa trade school would be located. °The Board approved \$43,696.00 to buy 31.58 acres of land from the Canty estate adjacent to and immediately east of °the Northington campus. °The property extended for over two thousand feet along Fifteenth Street.[41] <#_edn41> °°°In September 1951, the State Board completed the final arrangements for the property for trade School by accepting the transfer of 9.14 acres of land from the Northington Campus of the University of Alabama. °The Board reported that the transfer had to be agreed to by the U.S. government but that **Aagreement was in hand.**@[42]

The legislation which established the regional trade schools also called for the State Board of Education to appoint a four-member °**Aadvisory counsel**@ for each institution. The **Aduty of the council**@ was to **Apromote interest in the school and to cooperate with the State Board of Education and other State agencies in developing the regional trade school program.**@[43] In October 1952, the State Board appointed Harry Wright of Strickland Brothers Machine Company as chairman of the Tuscaloosa Trade School Advisory Council. Wright also appointed as **Arepresenting industry.**@ The other members of the Advisory Council included E.P. Terry of Moundville Motor Company **Arepresenting business,**@ and Grady Richardson and S.E. Strain, both **Arepresenting labor.**@[44]

H. I. James, the new Director of the Tuscaloosa trade school, °set up a temporary office with the Vocational Rehabilitation staff in the Alteck Service company building at 2124 7th Street. °To help the trade school gain acceptance in an **Auniversity town,**@ James and his family entered into the life of the community. James became a member of the Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club. He was president of his Sunday school class and a steward at the First Methodist Church. His wife too was a member of several civic and church organizations.[45] <#_edn45>

In September 1951, in an article on the front page of *The Tuscaloosa News*, James reported that the planning for the new school still in the **Apreliminary stages.**@ According to James, **Aplanning on the Tuscaloosa school [had] proceeded slowly in order that the experience gained in construction of other state schools at Dothan and Birmingham [could] be used to the fullest extent.**@ James hoped that the architect=s work could be completed and bids let for the construction in December and that the school would go into operation by September 1952.[46] <#_edn46>

Delays occurred however, including a delay in getting approval from the National Production Authority for the steel necessary for the construction of the trade school buildings. °At the end of 1951, James reported that the application for that material had been in the hands of the NPA **Afor some time.**@

In late January, the Federal government released the steel for the trade school and Director James and Superintendent Terry expressed their hopes that bids could be asked at an early date, and construction expedited.[47]

By the end of June 1952, *The Tuscaloosa News* published a front page picture of Mr. James standing by earthmoving equipment which was **Already for the beginning of work on grading and leveling** of the ground on which trade school was to be erected. The *News* reported further that all the work on the new school was to be done by the Tuscaloosa firm of Adams and Baker. The firm had 360 days to complete the project.[48] <#_edn48> In an August 1952 article on construction projects in the Tuscaloosa area, the *News* included a picture of the trade school site where the *News* reported sites have already been staked out, and work . . . underway on the main buildings. Construction of the new school would cost \$502,500.00[49] <#_edn49>

In addition to supervising the construction of the facilities of the new trade school, James had to develop its curriculum, its course offerings. In doing so, James **spent a great deal of time working with the head of the employment service in Tuscaloosa.** In addition, James contacted all the principals, vocational teachers and diversified occupation teachers in the twenty-one county central and west Alabama area to be served by the school. He also consulted a wide range of business, industrial, and civic leaders, both in Tuscaloosa and in the surrounding area.[50] <#_edn50>

Ultimately, the eleven initial courses of study included in the curriculum of the trade school were to be Machine Shop, Commercial Cooking and Baking, Auto Mechanics, Auto Body and Fender Repair, Electricity, Radio and Television Repair, Welding, General Business, Beauty Shop Operation, Practical Nursing, and Cabinet Making.[51] <#_edn51> James, of course, also had to hire the faculty to teach these courses.

The first class actually got underway sometime early in 1953 well before construction on the school was completed. The property purchased for the school contained some old **tenant houses.** Mr. James converted one of these into a cabinet shop. A woodworking class was taught in these temporary facilities by J. W. Hiten, the first instructor employed by the school. There were five men enrolled in this first class. Four were Korean veterans and the other was a veteran of World War II. These men were making solid oak tables for the new school and at a considerable savings. The students also made desks and filing cabinets for the instructors. The *Tuscaloosa News* published pictures of Hiten giving directions to Bobby Ray Beck, one of the four Korean War veterans, and Nathaniel Kizziah, the only World War II veteran in the class of five.[52] <#_edn52>

By early August 1953, James reported that he had 130 applications for the other courses to be taught at the school.[53] <#_edn53> The Administration Building which faced Fifteenth Street was the last building to be completed. Final inspection of the institution took place on September 29, 1953. In early October 1953, the temporary administrative offices on 7th Street were closed down and moved into the new facilities, and the final three courses of study, those to be housed in the administration building (Practical Nursing, General Business, and Beauty Shop Operation) were begun. The other eight courses of study in the curriculum had started a bit earlier, as the buildings which housed them were completed.[54] <#_edn54> In late October 1953, James reported that there were eighty-three (83) students enrolled in the eleven courses of study offered at the trade school. James also said that applications were still being taken for all courses and that beginning on November 1, 1953, the school would begin to offer classes at night[55] <#_edn55> Substantial growth did occur during this first full year in operation. In October 1954, Director James reported an enrollment of three hundred and thirty (330) to the State Board of Education.[56] <#_edn56>

A final step in the founding of the school occurred in May 1954 and January 1955. On Friday, May 7, 1954, J.P. Shelton died after a lengthy period of illness. In its substantial front page article on Shelton's death, *The Tuscaloosa News* pointed to his leading role in getting the state trade school located in Tuscaloosa.[57] When the State legislature met in early 1955, the Tuscaloosa delegation, led by A.K. Atemo Callahan, introduced a House Joint Resolution which named the trade school at Tuscaloosa, The J.P. Shelton Trade School. Without a dissenting vote the Senate concurred, and the school named *Shelton* finally was in place.[58] <#_edn58>

[1]. *Journal of the House of Representatives of Alabama Regular Session of 1947 Held in the City of Montgomery, Commencing Tuesday, May 6, 1947, Vol. I.* Birmingham, Alabama: Birmingham Printing Company, 24-25. (Hereafter cited as *Alabama House Journal, 1947, Vol I.*)

[2]. *The Tuscaloosa News*, January 19, 1947. Wallace said that the schools in his

proposed bill would be located in areas where their training facilities would be available to rural students. Wallace believed that most of the larger city high schools in the state . . . already equipped to a considerable degree for vocational training.

[3]. Stephan Leshner, *George Wallace American Populist*, Addison-Wesley Publishing Company, 1994, 71.

[4]. *Alabama House Journal, Vol I. 980-981; General Laws (and Joint Resolutions) of the Legislature of Alabama Passed at the Organizational Session of 1947, First Extraordinary Session of 1947, Second Extraordinary Session of 1947, Regular Session of 1947 Held at the Capitol, in the City of Montgomery*. Birmingham Printing Company, 1948, 514-516. (Hereafter cited as *Alabama Laws, 1947*.)

[5]. Ibid. Leshner quotes Wallace as arguing that if we are going to build an industrial economy, we must have people trained in tool and die machines and as lathe operators. . . . Many young men don't want to go to college or to law school, but they want to learn a trade or a craft. Brick masons, welders, auto mechanics. . . . trade schools require just as much intelligence as going to college, and it's just as important to become a good welder as to get a degree in psychology. Leshner, *Wallace American Populist*, 71.

[6]. The preamble also cited the availability for educational purposes of suitable military installations, buildings, sites, equipment, machinery, and supplies belonging to the United States. *Alabama Laws, 1947*, 514-516.

[7]. Leshner, *Wallace American Populist*, 70.

[8]. George E. Sims, *The Little Man's Big Friend: James E. Folsom in Alabama Politics 1946-1958*. The University of Alabama Press, 1985, 63. Also see Dan T. Carter, *The Politics of Rage: George Wallace, the Origins of the New Conservatism, and the Transformation of American Politics*, New York: Simon & Schuster, 1995, 76.

[9]. Leshner, *Wallace American Populist*, 71-72

[10]. *Alabama House Journal 1947, Vol I. 980-981*.

[11]. Leshner, *Wallace American Populist*, 71; also see Carl Grafton and Anne Permaloff, *Big Mules & Branchheads: James E. Folsom and Political Power in Alabama*. Athens, Georgia: The University of Georgia Press, 1985, 94

[12]. *Journal of the Senate of the State of Alabama Regular Session of 1947 Held in the City of Montgomery, commencing Tuesday, May 6, 1947, Vol I*, Birmingham, Alabama: Birmingham Printing Company, 1948, 829, 986; *Journal of the Senate of the State of Alabama Regular Session of 1947 Held in the City of Montgomery, commencing Tuesday, May 6, 1947, Vol II*, Birmingham, Alabama: Birmingham Printing Company, 1948, 1996.

[13]. Interview with Fuller Kimbrell, Shelton State Community College Archives. (Hereafter cited as Kimbrell Interview.) Also see, Fuller Kimbrell, *From the Farm House to the State House: The Life and Times of Fuller Kimbrell*, Tuscaloosa, Alabama: Word Way Press, Inc., 2001.

4. Kimbrell Interview

[15]. *Alabama Senate Journal, 1947, Vol II, 1997; Alabama Laws, 1947*, 514-516.

[16]. Kimbrell Interview

[17]. *Alabama House Journal, 1947, Vol. II, 2487-2488*; also see *Alabama Laws, 1947*, 514-516. Most accounts of this legislation fail to note that the liquor tax actually did not pass. See especially Sims, *The Little Man's Big Friend*, 63 and Carter, *The Politics of Rage*, 76. Also, the trade school legislation involved two bills. Few accounts mention HB1, the companion legislation that would have actually created the two cent liquor tax. HB 1 passed the House but died in the Senate, presumably because the amendments to HB 2 made it unnecessary. *Alabama House Journal, 1947, Vol. I, 24, 384, 1142, 1294, 1304, 1308; Senate Journal, 1947, Vol. I, 1058-1059; Vol. II, 1942*. See Mark McNeese Carroll, *A George Corley Wallace, Jr., in the 1947 Alabama Legislature: Folsomite or Bourbon?*, unpublished MA thesis, University of Houston, 1990.

- [18]. *Alabama Laws, 1947*, 514-516; *Alabama Senate, Journal, 1947, Vol II*, 1997.
- [19]. Other members of this Committee included Willis E. Penfield, Tax Assessor; Festus M. Shamblin, M. H. Wilbourne, B.Z. Hendrix; Gordon D. Palmer; Gordon Madison; Byron McNeal; Phil H. Ziderhoek; Tom Carpenter; Joe Cruse; County Agent, Beverly R. Holstun, and Harry Pritchett. *The Tuscaloosa News*, March 17, 1948.
- [20]. *The Tuscaloosa News*, March 17, 1948.
- [21]. Alabama State Board of Education, Minutes, May 14, 1948. Meadows called this group a Survey Committee. In its articles, *The Tuscaloosa News* called it the Site Selection Committee.
- [22]. The Site Selection Committee, Aat the invitation of local citizens,@ visited and met with Arepresentative citizens@ in Brewton, Camden, Clanton, Clayton, Columbiana, enterprise, Greensboro, Guin, Huntsville, Jasper, Birmingham, Lanett, Mobile, Montgomery, Napier Field/Dothan Area, Seale, Troy, and Tuscaloosa. Alabama State Board of Education, Minutes, May 14, 1948.
- [23]. The site selection group which visited Tuscaloosa included eight members: Chairman J. F. Ingram, R. E. Cammack (state director of vocational education) V.J. Douglas (Birmingham director of vocational education), J.E. Fortin (superintendent of the Alabama Trade School at Gasden), L.L. Sellers (Auburn assistant superintend of agricultural education), Dr. J..W. Letson, State Supervisor of Research and Surveys and Assistant Director of the State Department of Administration and Finance), Ben E. Harris (Associate State Superintendent of Trade and Industrial Education), and Fred Williamson (Assistant State Superintendent of Trade and Industrial Education). When Meadows named the members of the Committee to the Alabama State Board of Education, he included only six names: Ingram, Cammack, Letson, Harris, Williamson, and J.C. Cannon, State Supervisor of Vocational Agriculture. Cannon did not make the trip to Tuscaloosa. Presumable, his place was taken by L. L. Sellers. *The Tuscaloosa News*, March 18, 1948; Alabama State Board of Education, Minutes, May 14, 1948.
- [24]. *The Tuscaloosa News*, March 19, 1948.
- [25]. *The Tuscaloosa News*
- [26]. *The Tuscaloosa News*. Also see *The Tuscaloosa News*, March 14, 1948.
- [27]. *The Tuscaloosa News*, September 29, 1959; October 4, 1950.
- [28]. Kimbrell Interview.
- [29]. Kimbrell Interview.
- [30]. Alabama State Board of Education, Minutes, January 10, 1950. *The Tuscaloosa News* reported that the Board deferred action on the naming of the trade school locations Aon the governor=s request.@ *The Tuscaloosa News*, September 27, 1950.
- [31]. Alabama State Board of Education, Minutes, September 29, 1950. Senator Langan and Mr. Kitchen voted against Tuscaloosa, along with Superintendent Meadows. Meadows Aasked that the minutes carry his statement that was still voting in terms of the recommendations made by his Survey staff . . . and that he could not vote against those findings even though he recommended Tuscaloosa as an alternate choice.@ Meadows then said that Ahe was not ready to submit any other recommendations on the locations of trade schools.@ *Ibid*.
- [32]. *The Tuscaloosa News*, September 27, 1950; September 29, 1950.
- [33]. *The Tuscaloosa News*, October 24, 1950.
- [34]. *The Tuscaloosa News*, November 9, 1950; November 10, 1950.
- [35]. *The Tuscaloosa News*, May 27, 1951.
- [36]. Alabama State Board of Education, Minutes, March 26, 1952.

- [37].Alabama State Board of Education, Minutes, November 14, 1950. No such committee was appointed to assist the Superintendent with his recommendation for the Director of the trade school at Dothan. A similar committee, however, was appointed for the director of the trade school at Wenonah. Alabama State Board of Education, Minutes, September 9, 1948; December 3, 1948.
- [38].*The Tuscaloosa News*, December 24, 1950.
- [39].*The Tuscaloosa News*, May 18, 1951. The *News* reported that James was a member of the Lions Club and Mason's Lodge and a steward at the First Methodist Church. He was married and had four children. Interview with Mrs. H.I. James, Shelton State Community College Archives; *Alabama Vocational Industrial Education News Letter*, Vol. 1, No. IX, October, 1951.
- [40].Alabama State Board of Education, Minutes, July 18, 1951.
- [41].Alabama State Board of Education, Minutes, July 18, 1951; *The Tuscaloosa News*, July 11, 1951.
- [42].Alabama State Board of Education, Minutes, September 20, 1951. Also, see *The Tuscaloosa News*, May 18, 1951; May 27, 1951
- [43].*Alabama Laws, 1947*, 514-516.
- [44].Alabama State Board of Education, Minutes, October 1, 1952.
- [45].Interview with Mrs. H. I. James.
- [46].*The Tuscaloosa News*, September 16, 1951.
- [47].*The Tuscaloosa News*, December 27, 1951; January 22, 1952.
- [48].*The Tuscaloosa News*, June 27, 1952.
- [49].*The Tuscaloosa News*, August 12, 1952.
- [50].*The Tuscaloosa News*, September 16, 1951; Interview with Mrs. H. I. James.
- [51].*The Tuscaloosa News*, March 22, 1953; August 9, 1953; September 30, 1953
- [52].*The Tuscaloosa News*, March 22, 1953; Interview with Mrs. H.I. James.
- [53].*The Tuscaloosa News*, August 9, 1953.
- [54].*The Tuscaloosa News*, September 30, 1953.
- [55].*The Tuscaloosa News*, October 25, 1953.
- [56].Alabama State Board of Education, Minutes, October 1, 1954.
- [57].*The Tuscaloosa News*, May 8, 1954.
- [58].*Journal of the House of Representatives of the State of Alabama First Extraordinary Session, 1955*, Montgomery, Alabama: Skinner Printing Company, 1955, 25, 27; *Alabama Laws, 1955*, Vol. I, 34-35.
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